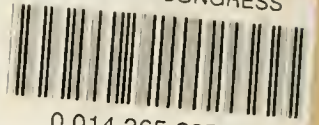


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Historical
Ligonier
Valley.



HISTORICAL LIGONIER VALLEY

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The Hermitage. The Old Home of Gen. Arthur St. Clair.

HISTORICAL LIGONIER VALLEY.

BY WILLIAM G. IRWIN.



THE picturesque Ligonier Valley, whose scenic charms and historic past have made it famous far beyond its borders, is nestled like a jewel between the forest clad and romantic Laurel Hill and Chestnut Ridge ranges of the Alleghanies, and it stretches in beautiful undulating verdure southward from the roaring, dashing Conemaugh to where the vindictive Yough breaks through the rugged mountain gap. The romance, song and story which have been woven about the charming valley, which in half modesty hides itself here between the western ranges of the Alleghanies, vie with the superb handiwork of the master hand which moulded these picturesque hills and dales.

Within the last half dozen years Ligonier has become one of the most popular summer resorts in the Alleghanies, and annually thousands of visitors from all over Western Pennsylvania enjoy the summer here, and in their memories live ever fresh the charms of the valley. But not only within recent years have the beauties of Ligonier Valley been known and enjoyed. George Washington called it "the beautiful valley hedged in by mountains," and other early visitors were admirers of the beauties here displayed by nature. Long years ago these charms were known to the dusky sons of the forest who roamed through these beautiful woodlands. To them it was a favorite hunting ground, and here, within the borders of the valley, along the banks of the picturesque Loyalhanna and those of the crystal streams which gather their waters from the mountains, the young pappoose played about the teepees of the Indian villages. Through the lowlands of the valley and along the hillsides then



LIGONIER'S NAMESAKE.

threaded, with sinuous windings, the great Cataba Trail, the main war path of the savages. Over this and other Indian trails the war parties went out from the valley to meet their enemies while the dusky matrons cultivated the maize here in these fertile lowlands where today the frugal farmers are engaged in similar pursuits, but putting into practice the more modern ideas of agriculture. Here in Ligonier Valley occurred some of the most vindictive struggles between the native red man and the pale faced interloper recorded in history. Slowly but resolutely the red man gave way, and from the blood and toil and travail of that early day has risen, through the genius of an irresistible destiny this important section of our country. Long years ago the savages who lived in the woodlands of old Ligonier Valley have gone to their happy hunting grounds and their feeble descendants have taken up their abodes in far occidental lands nevermore to roam through these peaceful woods in quest of game or to drop their lines in the peaceful waters of the old Loyalhanna.

EARLY HISTORY.

As computed from the time of the occupancy of the whites we can trace the history of the valley back to near the middle of the last century. Such men as Conrad Weiser, Christian Frederic Post and Christopher Gist, noted Indian traders and agents, had thus early passed through the valley. But the settlement of Ligonier Valley was really brought about by the expedition of General Forbes against Fort Duquesne. In the French and Indian War the strategic point at the head of the Ohio, the site of the present city of Pittsburg, was the key to the whole West. In April, 1754, Colonel



From a painting by Reynolds.

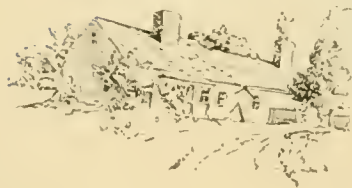
The Right Honorable John Lord Viscount Ligonier, after
whom Ligonier was named.

William Trent, who had been sent out by the Ohio Company, began the erection of a redoubt at that point, but on the 17th, while Colonel Trent was absent, a large French force under Conraccour came down the Allegheny, and Ensign Ward, then in command, was compelled to capitulate. Before this occurred George Washington, in command of a body of Virginian troops, was at Will's Creek, and a few months later, July 4th, he was compelled to capitulate Fort Necessity. The following year occurred the disastrous defeat of Braddock, and, with the exception of the expedition of Colonel Armstrong against the Indian towns at Kittanning, nothing was done by the English until the summer of 1758.

THE FORBES EXPEDITION.

Under the master hand of William Pitt radical changes in the colonial forces were made, and General John Forbes, a noted Scotch soldier, was placed in charge of the work of reducing the French strong-hold in the West. Under Forbes were such officers as Bouquet, Washington, Grant and Gage. The details of the expedition were left to Bouquet, who, with Washington, was the real leader of the expedition. During most of the time the army was en route, General Forbes was ill, and on his return to Philadelphia, after the success of the expedition, he died. This expedition consisted of 1,200 Highlanders, 350 Royal Americans, 2,700 Pennsylvania Provincials, 1,600 Virginians, about 1,000 wagoners, and a few troops from Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina. Bouquet commanded the first division and Washington the second. The former left Philadelphia in May, and reached Raystown, now Bedford, by the first of July. Washington was then at Fort Cumberland. The question as to which route the army should follow here came up, and quite a dispute between Washington and Bouquet occurred.

Washington advocated the old Braddock Road, and Bouquet maintained that a new and more direct road should be cut through the forest. The matter was, at length, referred to Forbes, who decided in favor of the new route on account of it being the shorter, and thus it was that Fort Mifflin came into existence, and that the name of an English





Old California Furnace



MAJOR GEN'L ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.
From a Painting by Peale.

Lord came to be given to this picturesque valley. On July 8th Captain Ward, the same who had surrendered the redoubt at the headwaters of the Ohio, was sent out from Raystown to explore the country to the westward. This was the first of Forbes' army to penetrate Ligonier Valley, and in his reports Captain Ward recommended the site of the present town of Ligonier as an excellent site for a fort and camp, and on August 8th Bouquet sent to Forbes the plans of the fort and storehouse to be erected at this point. Early in August, Washington and his Virginians joined Bouquet. Colonel Stephen with the road making party reached Laurel Hill on August 15th, and eight days later Colonel Burd and Major Grant marched from Raystown with four companies of Royal Americans to take a position at Loyal Hanning, and, as Bouquet wrote to Forbes on August 20th, they were to "take charge of the post at Loyal Hanning, and form there a fortified camp." The party of Burd and Grant arrived at Loyal Hanning on September 1st, and by the second week in September Bouquet, with 2,500 troops, was at this camp, and from here on September 10th he wrote to Forbes, then at Raystown.

THE FRENCH ATTACK THE CAMP.

From the camp at Loyal Hanning Colonel Grant led out his Highlanders to slaughter on Grant's Hill. After that disastrous defeat, which occurred on September 16th, the French and their Indian allies, under the leadership of De Vitri, appeared in great numbers about the English Camp here in Ligonier Valley, and on October 12th there occurred here in the woods a desperate battle. At this time Colonel Burd was in command of the English. The fight lasted all day, and at nightfall



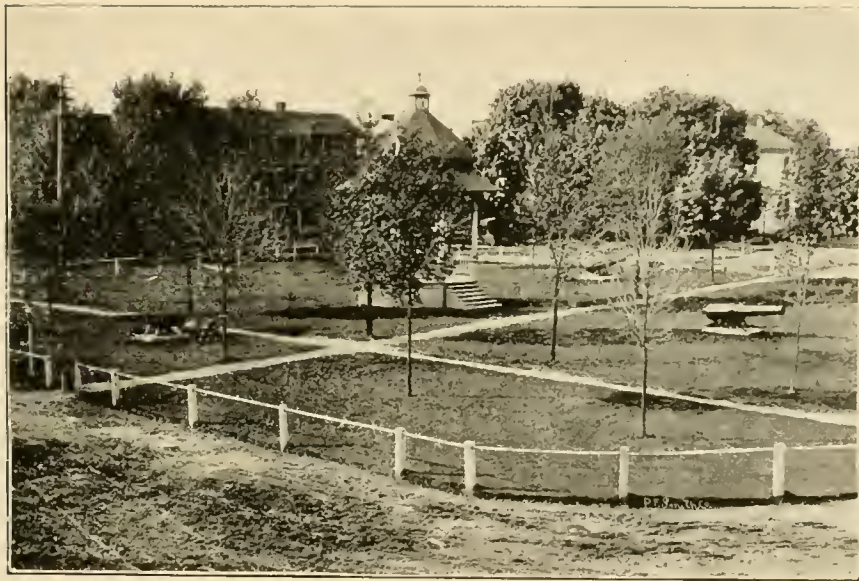
A Reminder of the Stage Coach Days.

the French and Indians, badly beaten, retreated in the darkness. Of this battle a well known historian says:

"Few have paid more than passing notice to the fact that here in Ligonier Valley, part of the renowned organization which had been perfected by Turenne and Luxemburg, which had sustained glory on the fields of Belgium, had ravished the Pilatinate, and had been marshaled against the Stadtholder king and Marlborough, were brought face to face with their immemorial foemen. But it is true that here, under the lilies of France, the soldiery of Louis again closed in conflict with the soldiery of George under the Royal cross of England. Here were fought over again the conflicts of Namur and Landen."

THE FALL OF FORT DUQUESNE.

This was the last battle in the West during the French and Indian War. It was really the decisive contest of the struggle for it resulted in the capture of the French stronghold without the firing of a shot. Washington and his Virginians joined Bouquet on October 21st and, at his request, Washington was given command of the advance from this point. Together with the road-making party under Colonel Armstrong, Washington had 2,100 men and he pushed forward with vigor. On November 1st Forbes arrived at the Camp at Loyal Hanning and on the 17th the entire army moved forward and just four days later were beheld the charred ruins of the French stronghold. With the smoke which rose from the ashes of old Fort Duquesne went up the last hope of the French for supremacy in the Mississippi Valley. On the spot was erected the fortress which has immortalized the great Prime Minister, and on that spot are now being wrought industrial wonders and revolutions which far outrank the martial enactments of earlier days. The historian Bancroft has truthfully said, "as long as the Monongahela shall flow to join the Ohio, as long as the English tongue shall be the language of freedom in the boundless valley which these waters traverse, the name of William Pitt shall stand inscribed on the 'Gateway of the West.'"



Fort Ligonier Park.

FORT LIGONIER NAMED.

It was upon the return of the army that the name Ligonier was applied to the fort which stood on the site of the present town. Previous to that time it was known as the camp at Loyal Hanning. Loyal Hanning was the early name for the Loyalhanna Creek. On December 3d, Forbes left the Forks of the Ohio, and on arriving at the camp in Ligonier Valley he ordered it strengthened, and a stockade was erected here. In honor of John Lord Ligonier, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Armies, under whom Forbes had served before coming to the Colonies, the post was named Fort Ligonier. Lord Ligonier was a most interesting personage. A French Huguenot, he was driven from his native land and finally sought refuge in England. There he rose to a high station. His full title was, "The Right Honorable, John Lord Viscount Ligonier, One of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Councils, Knight of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Colonel of His Majesty's First Regiment of Foot Guards, Field Marshal and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces." However, save here in the New World, far from his adopted or his native land, his name has long ago been forgotten. Here it is perpetuated and kept green by a town, a township and this picturesque valley.

While at Fort Ligonier on his way to Philadelphia, Forbes again took sick and here the army lay until after Christmas. That long ago Christmas Day was probably one of the greatest which this place has ever seen, for while during the summer months the thousands visit the town and valley, the winter months are comparatively quiet ones. The latter days of 1758 and the early days of 1759 were stirring ones about Fort Ligonier. After the return of the army over the mountains, Fort Ligonier was one of the three forts in the West at which a Royal garrison was maintained. A garrison of 100 men under Lieut. Lloyd was stationed here. Later Lieut. Miles was in command and Colonel Ephraim Blaine, the great grandfather of the late statesman, was at one time in command of Fort Ligonier. Arthur St. Clair, of whom much will be said later, was another commander at the fort.





On the Loyalhanna.

GEORGE WASHINGTON IN LIGONIER VALLEY.

The early life of George Washington is most closely associated with Ligonier Valley. Just before he joined the army he had met and fallen in love with the beautiful young widow, Martha Custis, and from here he wrote to her in words of love. On the return of the army he left his command at this point and hastened over the mountains, and a few weeks latter there was a brilliant wedding at a country church not far from Winchester. Here in Ligonier Valley Washington had what he always deemed his narrowest escape from death. This occurred while the army lay at the camp awaiting the arrival of Forbes from the East. One evening, late in October, Colonel Hugh Mercer was sent out with a detachment to dislodge a party of Indians which had been harassing the camp. After he had been out some time a heavy firing was heard at the camp and it was thought that he was being repulsed. Washington at once led out to his assistance, as he supposed, a party of volunteers, and the two parties approaching each other in the dusk, each mistook the other for the enemy and a heavy fire was opened by both parties. Before the mistake was discovered an officer and several men were killed and many wounded. In order to stop the melee Washington rushed between the two lines and beat down the presented pieces with his sword, thus exposing himself to the fire of both parties. In after life Washington frequently referred to this encounter and even after the Revolution, with the memory of its many perils fresh upon his mind, he declared that never before or since was he placed in such imminent danger as in this unfortunate affair here in Ligonier Valley.

BOUQUET AND BUSHY RUN.

The years intervening between the French and Indian War and the defeat of the savages by Bouquet at Bushy Run were stormy ones for the garrison and the few settlers who clustered under the walls of the fort. Fights with the savages were of frequent occurrence. When the bugle call of Pontiac rallied the dusky sons of the forest in one fierce phalanx of savage hostility and all the frontier forts were besieged, Fort Ligonier was one of the few to



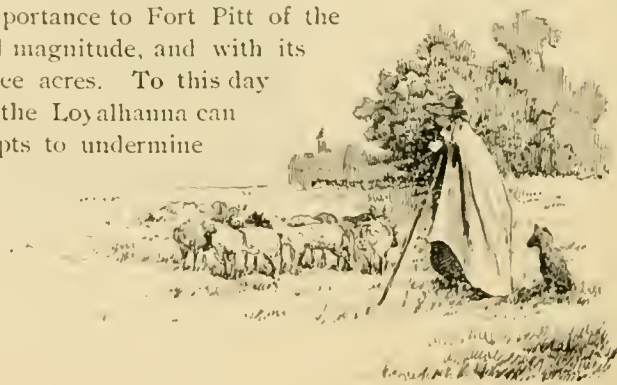
In the Loyalhanna Water Gap.

withstand the fierce onslaughts. The siege of Fort Ligonier lasted for nearly two months and ended only with the coming of Bouquet and his valient little army of deliverance. On August 2d, Bouquet with his Royal Americans and Highlanders reached Fort Ligonier and three days later occured the battle of Bushy Run and the defeat there administered effectually beat back the savages hordes. But Ligonier Valley had not yet passed her stormy days. Until October, 1773, a Royal Garrison was maintained at the fort.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD.

Just then the events preliminary to the opening of the Revolution were firing the minds of the Western patriots. The old Fort was permitted to fall into decay. A few years later it was repaired and named Fort Preservation and until after the Revolution it was a harbor and a refuge for the settlers. To tell of all the thrilling enactments which occured about the old Fort during this stormy period would be impossible. Time and again were fierce attacks and long sieges made by the indians upon the post. Until within a comparatively recent period the lines of the old intrenchment could be seen by visitors, but now every evidence of its former presence has been effaced and the site has become one of the beautiful parts of the town.

Old Fort Ligonier was second in age to Fort Necessity and in importance to Fort Pitt of the frontier forts of Pennsylvania. The fort was a work of strength and magnitude, and with its retrenchments, fascine batteries and redoubts it covered nearly three acres. To this day many visitors are attracted to Fort Hill. In the bluff overhanging the Loyalhanna can yet be seen a number of excavations made by the savages in attempts to undermine the fort. At one time there was an underground passage from the fort to the spring from which the water supply was obtained. This spring is now on the property of R. M. Graham, Esq. In excavating for buildings on the site of the fort, many guns,





Another View in Loyalhanna Water Gap.

tomahawks, arrow-heads, scalping knives and other rude relics of savage warfare have been unearthed. A number of cannon balls, powder keg hoops, French, English and Spanish coins, and other interesting relics have been found here. R. M. Graham, Esq. has a large and valuable collection of these, and during the summer months his museum is visited by hundreds. The Armor Museum at Laughlinstown also contains a most valuable collection ; perhaps the most complete in Western Pennsylvania, and hundreds of interested persons visit the place to view these relics of former days.

THE EARLY IRON INDUSTRY.

After the close of the Revolution and the cessation of the Indian wars and forays, quietude supplanted the thrilling days, and peace reigned throughout the valley. Straightway a period of prosperity ensued, and soon the valley became the center of the early iron industry. For probably half a century this industry, which of late years has done so much for Pittsburg and Western Pennsylvania, underwent many of its infantile vicissitudes here in Ligonier Valley, and here are yet to be seen many ruins of this former industry. Around these old ruins, which speak so eloquently of a former busy industry, all is now romantically picturesque. The woodlands which once rang with the noise of the axes cutting wood for the charcoal pits ; the hills and dales which once echoed and re-echoed the ring and rattle of chain, hoof and wheel now know these strange sounds no more. In the immediate vicinity of these old furnace stacks are still to be seen the ore beds where man dug and delved into mother earth, and again may come the time when these old workings will be called upon to give up their stores of umbrel ores.

Among the old furnaces of Ligonier Valley were some of the earliest and most important of the industry. Westmoreland Furnace, near Laughlinstown, was built in 1792. In 1802 General Arthur St. Clair erected Hermitage Furnace on Mill Creek, on the Johnstown Pike, about a mile east of Ligonier. Washington Furnace, on the Pittsburg and Philadelphia Pike, above Laughlinstown, was erected in 1809. Ross Furnace, on Tubmill Run, was erected in 1814, and during the next decade Lockport Furnace on the Conemaugh, Fountain Furnace on Camp



Lake St. Clair, Idlewild Parks.

Run, Baldwin Furnace on Laurel Run, and old Kingston Furnace on the Loyalhanna were built. Between the years 1850 and 1855 Hillsvieview Furnace, Oakgrove Furnace and California Furnace were put in operation. The ruins of these old pioneers of the iron industry attract many visitors, and about them are still to be found much of interest.

THE DAYS OF THE STAGE COACH.

Co-incident with the days of the old furnaces were the days of the stage coach. The first of the roads through the valley was the old Forbes Road and to this day its tortuous windings are discernible along the rich hillsides of the valley and in the woodlands of the bordering mountains. The course of the old State Road can be traced still more plainly. The State Road was constructed before the opening of the present century, and at a latter date a number of turnpikes were constructed through the valley. The most important of these was the Pittsburg and Philadelphia Turnpike, which really ushered in the days of the stage coach in Ligonier Valley, and to this day this old road forms a most important highway. What the National Road was to the section farther south this road was to Ligonier Valley and to the sections which it traversed. In the evolution of travel from pack-horse to steam and electricity this old highway was a most important step. Its construction, occurring at a time when the great tide of emigration was pouring into the Mississippi Valley, this with other similar internal improvements, perhaps more than anything else, was instrumental in hastening the development of the great West. Over the old road was carried westward thousands of population and millions of wealth. To trace the story of this famous old highway we find no point where interest lags. Through its infantile vicissitudes, at the height of its fame and glory, and in the days of its decline, it has the same interest to this age and generation and it must ever form a tie which binds the present to the past.

To Ligonier Valley the road meant much. When the old road ushered in the stage-coach days Ligonier became an important station on the line. In early days the plot in the center of the town, now a charming little park, was filled with Conestogas and stage coaches night and day, and of the old taverns none were more famous



Lake Bouquet, Idlewild Parks.

than those of Ligonier Valley. Before the days of the railroad inaugurated speedy travel and knelled out the old pike system Ligonier Valley saw busy days. Many noted persons passed over the old highway. Jackson, Harrison, Taylor and other executives of our nation, Clay, Corwin and many other early celebrities journeyed along this old road through Ligonier Valley and enjoyed the hospitality of the famous old taverns.

OPENING OF THE RAILROAD.

On the decline of the days of the old pike Ligonier Valley relapsed into quietude. Until two decades ago, when railroad communications with the outside world were established through the opening of the Ligonier Valley Road, Ligonier remained an inland town. The history of the project which finally resulted in the completion of the narrow gauge road from which has been evolved the excellent standard gauge line over which the traveler of today is carried to Idlewild and Ligonier, teems with interest. From the opening of the road, in 1877, the development of the valley has been rapid. When the toot of the locomotive echoed through the mountain gaps and awakened the valley from its long lethargic sleep there ensued a period of prosperity, and to the present day this has continued.

PICTURESQUE LIGONIER VALLEY.



The trip to Ligonier Valley and Idlewild is one of the varied scenes and continual delights. While visitors from all over Western Pennsylvania and from surrounding sections visit Ligonier Valley every year, the greater majority of the visitors hail from Pittsburg and from neighboring towns. The trip from Pittsburg is a delightful one. Puffing in steam and smoke the great iron-horse threads its way out through labyrinths of factories, iron works and busy homes, and soon emerges from



Canal and Boat House, Idlewild Parks.

the city leaving behind, like a bad conscience, the smoke and grime and all thoughts of everyday life.

ALONG THE PENNSYLVANIA ROAD.

It is with thoughts of reverence that the traveler flees from the lofty church spires of the city, but the trip out along the line of the Pennsylvania Road, through the most famous section of our state, makes due recompense for all and the traveler is happy. Now we speed through populous towns, now through grim mining villages, past flaming coke ovens, through the famous gas fields marked by the myriad of derricks, and at intervals a romantic old hamlet flits across one's vision to remind him of former days. Now the train plunges into some towering hill and the outer world is shut from view, but presently we emerge into green fields and delightful vistas as are unrolled before our eyes.

Braddock, East Pittsburg and Wilmerding all present superlatives not found elsewhere in the manufacturing world. Irwin and Manor finds one in the heart of the world's greatest coal fields. At Jeannette one gets a glimpse of the great glass factories and at the same time are beheld the derricks which dot the hilltops and the meadows. Greensburg, the charming capital of old Westmoreland, is a busy little city and here the traveler finds much of interest. Farther to the East the outlines of old St. Vincent Abbey, the main home of the Benedictine Order in America, are to be seen above the flood of verdure. Soon Latrobe is reached and here, forty miles East of Pittsburg, the traveler bids adieu to the line of the Pennsylvania Road and the remainder of the trip to Idlewild or Ligonier is made over the Ligonier Valley Road.

OVER THE LIGONIER VALLEY RAILROAD.

Here the travelers from the East and from the West join in the journey to Idlewild and Ligonier. The Idlewild excursion trains are here switched onto the line of the Ligonier Valley Road, and without delay the great



In the Woods at Idlewild.



crowds of excursionists continue their delightful journey up through the mountain gap. The traveler en route to Ligonier makes a change of cars at Latrobe, and without loss of time the journey continues without any inconveniences. Aside from the three regular trains each way daily on the Ligonier Valley Road, and the many special Idlewild trains, an excellent train is run through the summer months

to connect with the Cresson Special East on Saturday afternoon and returning Monday morning. Unlike most branch roads, the Ligonier Valley maintains a good Sunday train service. Through the summer an observation car is attached to the regular trains.

The trip from Latrobe to Ligonier is a delightful one. As the train pauses the traveler catches a glimpse of the mountains only a few miles away. Then the engineer opens the throttle and the ride to the mountains begin. As the train threads its way out around Latrobe one catches a fine view of that live little city.

It is doubtful whether any other section of our state presents so many charms as are shown to the traveler in the ten miles from Latrobe to Ligonier. In the three miles between Latrobe and the mountains one is carried through an ideal farming section, abounding in fascinating rural scenes. Soon the mountains, whose slopes in the distance raise their blue heads, are directly before us, and their azure has turned to verdure. Presently Kingston Station is reached, and the train here pauses ere beginning its mountain journey.

Here from the car window can be seen the waters of the Loyalhanna. On the opposite bank of the stream can be seen the roadbed of the old Pittsburg and Philadelphia Turnpike. By the roadside stands the old Johnston House, the birthplace of Governor William Fraunce Johnston. The old house was built in the early days of the century. Nearby are to be seen the ruins of old Kingston Furnace, one of the pioneer iron furnaces. This place is today seeing lively times, for above the ruins of the old furnace the model silica plant of the William Stuart Silica Company has been erected, and here the workmen are making great fissures in the mountain sides.



Western Entrance, Idlewild Parks.

THROUGH THE LOYALHANNA WATER GAP.

Leaving Kingston behind the train straightway plunges into the mountains and presently the traveler is lost amid the many beauties which nature has showered upon this tossed and tumbled range of the Alleghanies. From away up among the fastnesses of Laurel Hill on the eastern border of the valley leap and sally the crystal waters which make up the Loyalhanna, and here in the picturesque water gap this romantic sister of the Conequessing, and near relative of the blue Juniata, has many charms and beauties. Ordinarily it is a delightful stream and here where the black bass hide in the rocky shallows and cascades the disciples of Izaak Walton will find fine sport.

On either side the verdant mantled peaks and spurs rear their heads majestically against the pale blue of the perfect sky. To their very tops they are clothed with giant pines, oaks and other deciduous trees and lower down the rhododendron and other smaller growth round out the scenery. At times the glistening rails almost touch the crystal waters as they leap down the gorge and then the track is lost in the luxuriant verdure of the forest. Every curve rounded displays some new beauty. Spur after spur, ravine, dell and cliff fleet past the eye of the traveler. Now one way, now another the puffing locomotive and its serpentine train speeds up the gap. Kelly's Hollow is only one of the many delightful places to be mentioned. Here a silvery waterfall comes tumbling down the steep ravine and joins the Loyalhanna.

Farther up the gap we see a typical lumber camp and just beyond, the great Blue Rock quarries of Booth & Flinn on the right across the creek, and those of the Ligonier Stone Company on the left attract the attention of the excursionists. For more than a mile the face of the mountain side has been carved by the workmen, and here the infinite handiwork of the master is laid bare and open to observant eyes. Let him who would study nature aright climb up these mountain sides and behold the wonders here revealed. The exposure of earth and rock here to be seen enables one to turn back with the finger of science the earthen leaves of the book of nature which the demands of modern industry have here lain open.



Band Stand and Auditorium at Idlewild.

THE PICTURESQUE IDLEWILD PARKS.

Leaving these scenes behind we soon emerge from the mountains. Through the gap ahead can be seen picturesque Idlewild, and far beyond the blue outlines of old Laurel Hill, the eastern borderland of the valley, are visible. Down by the side of the train a succession of beautiful waterfalls and rapids greet the eye. Now we emerge from the gap, and the hills spread to make room for lowlands. Presently we pass the picturesque lodge of entrance and then the train glides out into the broad expanse of Idlewild.

To tell of all the charms and beauties of this delightful mountain park would be impossible. Here nature has gathered together everything that could in any way contribute to the physical welfare or the esthetic desires of pleasure seekers, and to these have been added all the improvements necessary to place the park in the first rank among the picnic resorts of Western Pennsylvania. Here, as nowhere else, is it possible for pleasure seekers to enjoy to the utmost a day's outing. Easily accessible to Pittsburg and all Western Pennsylvania towns, this mountain park is, perhaps, more truly in the heart of the mountains than any other resort in the state, for here are shut out from the mind all signs of the turmoil of every day life.

In the 354 acres of the park there are embraced all the ruggedness of the mountain, and yet all these beauties of nature can be enjoyed without any of the usual inconveniences met with in the mountains. Here are to be found mingled in profusion, hill, lowland, wood and lawn. The first scene which greets the eye of the visitor to Idlewild is one of great beauty. Passing Darlington the train glides along between two fine sheets of water. To the left are the rising hills and on the right the lowlands stretch away in charming vistas. Lake Bonquet on the right is the larger of the twin lakes. Its shores are bordered by a fine bicycle track and shaded walks and its surface is dotted with beautiful little islands. On its placid bosom is a fleet Naphtha launch and also graceful swan boats. On the left is Lake St. Clair and, like its twin sister, it perpetuates the name of one who helped to shape the early affairs of Western Pennsylvania. Except for the silvery ripples which flow in the wake of pleasure craft these lakes are as calm as a child in peaceful slumbers.



Eastern Entrance Idlewild Parks.



The Town



Ligonier.



FRANK'S HOTEL STATION.

SOME IDLEWILD FEATURES.

Rounding the Point Idlewild Station is reached and here are found grouped many varied attractions and absolute conveniences. Here is a natural amphitheatre with ample room for twice ten thousand picnickers and here are grouped a myriad of features which have made Idlewild so popular. On a commanding plateau, and surrounded by charming forest bordered lawns with rustic seats whereon one may rest in the cooling mountain breezes, stands the auditorium.

This building, enlarged and embellished, is now the largest and finest of its kind in Western Pennsylvania. Nearby are tennis courts and other attractions.

Across a picturesque wooded dell to the left is the mammoth dining hall which will at once accomodate a thousand persons, and with its spacious and well furnished kitchens is at the disposal of picnickers. Among the giant trees along the Loyahanna below is a second spacious dining hall which has been enlarged and improved and there is also a second auditorium. Here is located a Ladies' cottage, recently enlarged and remodeled, and here the wearied and fatigued can enjoy rest and quietude.

IN THE WOODLANDS OF IDLEWILD.

The waters of the romantic Loyahanna are spanned by fine bridges and across the stream in the woodlands are to be found swings, tables, rustic seats, delightful walks, inviting ferneries and many other attractions. Over the whole woodland is thrown a beautiful mantle of rhododendron making a delightful scene. Issuing from the woodland on the right the athletic field is reached and here the fringing forest forms a cosy resting place for those who linger to watch the sports. Beyond the meadowlands stretch away in fine vistas along the banks of Four Mile Run.



Frank's Hotel, Ligonier, Pa

Idlewild has over a mile of fine stream which affords excellent fishing. While the mountain park possesses all the advantages of mountain or lake resort it has many advantages all its own and which has placed it in the top rank of the picnic resorts of our state. The visitor to Idlewild is not subject to any change of cars or vexatious delays. The journey from Pittsburg is made in a little over an hour. A baggage car for the accommodation of picnickers is attached to every train, and a day spent here in the mountains is one of continual pleasure and one which will long live in the memory.

Nothing could speak more eloquently for Idlewild than its long continued popularity. For nearly a score of years it has been in existence, and all these years its fame has been growing. In this respect it stands alone among the picnic resorts. Others have come into existence and have been forgotten, but Idlewild, the oldest of all, is still at the mid-day of its popularity, and with the new improvements added every year it bids fair to hold first rank for many years to come. The idea of church and society reunions, now so popular in all parts of the country, was originated at Idlewild nearly a score of years ago. Every season thousands of the best people of Western Pennsylvania visit Idlewild, and hundreds of the best church, lodge and school organizations visit this picnickers' mecca every year.

FROM IDLEWILD TO LIGONIER.

The trip from Idlewild to Ligonier is not without interest. Here and there the tasty farm houses peep through the shade trees and look down upon the Loyalhanna, and in the summer time the white tents of the camping parties can be seen along the streams. Now we speed along the shores of the Lake and past the mammoth ice houses of the Ligonier Ice Company, the sight of which is enough to moderate the hottest rays of summer. The Lake is a beautiful sheet of water covering, perhaps, forty acres, and in its sombre depths the gamey bass and pike flash their bronze and silver armor. Now we round a short curve, the stream again comes in view, more camping parties are passed, and just then our reveries are broken by the shrill voice of the locomotive announcing the end of the journey.



Residence of J. H. Frank, Esq.

HISTORIC OLD LIGONIER.

Ligonier is a charming little town nestled in the very bosom of the hills, which all around rise to shut out all the smoke and grime of the industries of the busy outside world. The town has a population of close on to 1,500, and it is the outgrowth of the settlement which sprung up around the walls of old Fort Ligonier. The town was laid out in 1817, and was incorporated as a borough in 1834, and in the many years of its existence it has undergone all the changes from a country village to a modern town and a well known summer resort. Ligonier is located in the midst of an ideal farming community. It is well laid out with wide and well paved streets, and with shade so abundant that, viewed from one of the surrounding hills, the town seems set in the midst of a forest. Among the attractions of the town is a fine park, planted with shade trees and flowers, and in which have been placed a handsome music pavilion and several formidable pieces of artillery. Instead of the place where wagons were stored in stage coach days, the place has been made one of beauty.

Ligonier is well supplied with hotels and business houses, and has excellent churches. The town has also a fine public library, and among the projects now on foot is the establishment of a high class college preparatory school. Public improvements have not been neglected here in this mountain town. Among the recent improvements is the new water system constructed at public expense, and by means of which the town is supplied with water pure as nectar and distilled in the moss spring up among the fastnesses of Laurel Hill.

FRANK'S HOTEL AND COTTAGES.

While Ligonier and Ligonier Valley are rich in historical interest and have many attractions which have brought them prominently to the notice of the outside world, it is as a summer resort that they lay just claims to recognition. The credit for placing Ligonier in the top rank of the mountain resorts to be found along the slopes



Entrance to Morningside Farm.

of the Alleghanies is in a great degree due to the efforts of J. H. Frank, Esq., the proprietor of Frank's Hotel and Cottages, Ligonier's well known summer resort, who has made for his resort a reputation which is widespread.

Even before the opening of the Ligonier Valley Road many well known Pittsburg people spent the summer at Ligonier, and after railroad communications brought the town into close touch with the outside world, the summer colony here increased with each succeeding year. So great became the demand for summer quarters at Ligonier that in the summer of 1890 the well known Frank's Hotel was opened to the public, and since that time it has been one of the most popular summer resorts. This elegant new hotel with its handsome cottages provides accommodations for 150 guests. The resort is handsomely located on the edge of the town and over looking the Loyalhanna and its beautiful lowlands, and from the broad verandas one catches a view of many miles of rolling country.

Frank's Hotel has all the accessories which go to make up a first-class summer resort and here the visitor finds attractions which he would scarcely expect to find in the heart of the Alleghanies. The massive hotel building is complete in every detail and on the beautifully laid out grounds are to be found everything which could add to the enjoyment of an outing. In addition to the many attractions provided in the handsome hotel there are to be found on the grounds fine tennis courts, a bowling alley, ice cream parlor, telegraph office, fine walks and drives and plenty of shade. In the Loyalhanna below the hotel is fine bass fishing. Connected with the hotel is a fine ball-room where an excellent orchestra is maintained, and about the resort are to be found many other attractions which have helped to make Frank's Hotel famous.

LIGONIER HOUSE.

Another hotel, and one justly famous, is the Ligonier House of which Mr. A. C. Brenizer is proprietor. This is really the pioneer hotel of the town, as well as the leading one, and has long enjoyed a most liberal patronage and an enviable reputation for its fine appointment and the excellence of its culinary department as well as for its home-like comforts. The house has fine rooms and wide verandas. This excellent hotel is finely located on the public park overlooking fine shade and flowers, and it is a most desirable stopping place



Morningside Residence of Denny Family.

for those who seek to spend the summer months here in this mountain town. Every summer hundreds of well known people from all over the Western end of the State make the Ligonier House their home, and here they enjoy the warm months. With each year the guests at the Ligonier House are more numerous and with each season its popularity increases.

NATIONAL HOTEL.

Another excellent hotel is the National, of which C. F. Mahaney is proprietor. The National is located one square above the park and is a well established stand. Under its new management this hotel enjoys a wide patronage, and the improvements made during the past year have brought it up to date. The bill-of-fare at the National always includes the best that the market affords, and summer visitors who stop at this hotel are sure to return again.

HOTEL MENOHER.

Hotel Menoher, at the corner of Loyalhanna and Market streets, is owned by J. F. Menoher. This hotel was opened about six years ago and in this time the house has become well established. Hotel Menoher is a modern hotel with all conveniences. It has fine grounds and enjoys a liberal summer patronage, and summer visitors who sojourn at this hostlery will here find rest and quietude.

THE OLD ST. CLAIR HOUSE.

An object of interest to everybody is the old home of General Arthur St. Clair, Western Pennsylvania's greatest patriot, warrior and statesman, which is still preserved here in Ligonier Valley. The old house stands on the Johnstown Pike, just beyond the Morningside Farm, and is visited every year by hundreds of people. A visit to the old house recalls the history of General St. Clair. This brilliant, but unfortunate, Revolutionary commander was one of the most important figures on the foreground of our early history. Aid to Washington, and at one



Falls of Loyalhanna.

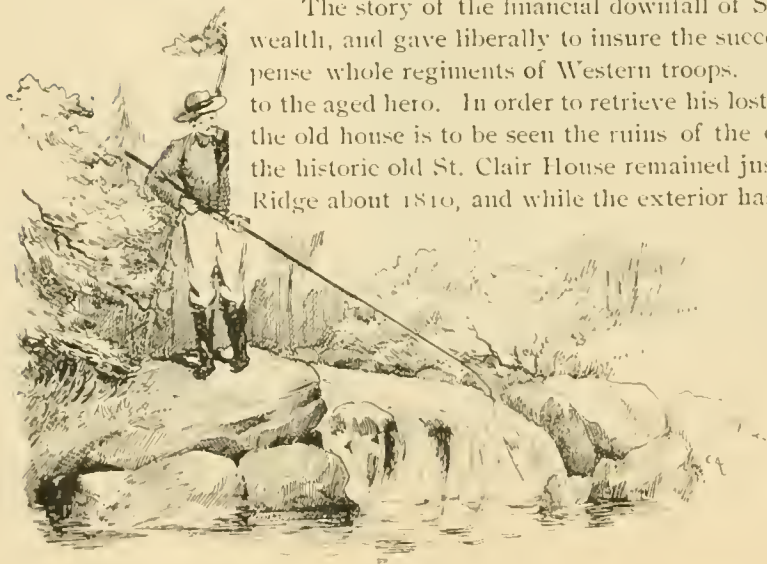
time his most trusted counselor, Commander of the Army of the North in the Revolution, President of Continental Congress, Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States and Governor of the Great Northwest Territory, General St. Clair died in poverty and neglect up on the mountains bordering this romantic valley.

St. Clair was a Scotchman of noble birth, and he came to America in the fleet of Admiral Boscawen. After the close of the French and Indian War he came to the West, and for a time was stationed at Fort Ligonier. He was active in shaping the affairs of this region, and was early an ardent sympathizer with the rising spirit of liberty. His life and public services are inseparably identified with the history of our country. During much of his life he lived here in Ligonier Valley, and at one time he was an extensive land-holder here. St. Clair's family seat was known as "The Hermitage," and here were entertained many celebrities of the Revolutionary period. Here St. Clair operated his vast estates on the same pretentious style as did the early Southern plantation owners.

The story of the financial downfall of St. Clair is a sad one. In his earlier days he was a man of wealth, and gave liberally to insure the success of the cause of the patriots, equipping at his own expense whole regiments of Western troops. In latter years the government refused to refund the money to the aged hero. In order to retrieve his lost fortunes St. Clair engaged in the iron industry, and nearby the old house is to be seen the ruins of the old Hermitage Furnace which he built. For many years the historic old St. Clair House remained just as left by General St. Clair when he removed to Chestnut Ridge about 1810, and while the exterior has been somewhat improved, the interior still remains in its original condition.

THE MORNINGSIDE FARM.

Among the model country seats of the valley is the Denny residence at the Morningside Farm, a mile East of town. The broad acres of this farm lie along Mill Creek and on the sloping hillside beyond. The stables of





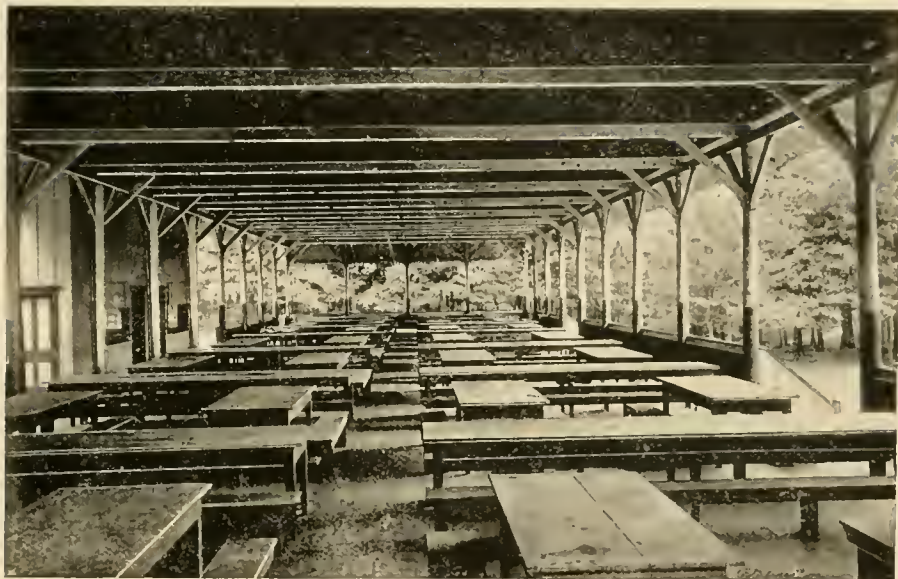
Kissell's Springs Hotel.

the Morningside Farm contain some fine trotting stock. Here is also a fine half mile track where exhibitions of speed are given through the summer and also a fine covered track for winter training. Mr. W. L. Pierce, Esq., of Pittsburg has also a model country residence nearby.

KISSELL'S SPRINGS.

One of the most popular of the Ligonier Valley resorts is Kissell's Springs, where many visitors from Pittsburg and other Western Pennsylvania towns spend the summer months every year. This delightful resort is nestled at the very foot of the Laurel Hill Mountains and here, 1,500 feet above the sea level, the visitor finds much of interest. Conveyances are run to meet the trains at Ligonier, and the trip to Kissell's Springs is made over a fine road and through a delightful section of Ligonier Valley. Out over the Johnstown turnpike, past the Morningside Farm of Denny Bros., past the historic old St. Clair house, through the villages of Oakgrove and Boucher and then through the forest and across sparkling streams in which the trout lurks, leads the road to this mountain retreat. Here at Kissell's Springs is the large and well regulated Kissell's Springs Hotel of which Mr. D. C. Kissell is proprietor; and here the visitor can enjoy amid home-like comforts all the delicacies of the season. About Kissell's Springs Hotel many improvements have been made. The house is complete in every detail and with its fine verandas, abundant shade, tennis court and other conveniences it is a model mountain resort.

Here are beautiful forests and great pine groves. Fine trout ponds have been constructed on the grounds. Within sight of the hotel is one of the finest trout streams in the valley and here the sportsman annually enjoys excellent sport. As a resort for the trout fisher the place has become famous. The mountain scenery of this section is not surpassed elsewhere in the Alleghenies. Nearby are beautiful waterfalls, high cliffs, great rocky ledges, dark caves and caverns which the visitor never tires beholding. The forest is full of game and here many hunting parties enjoy this sport. In addition to the many visitors who spend the summer at this resort hundreds of summer visitors who sojourn at Ligonier and other places in the valley visit Kissell's Springs, and almost daily crowds enjoy the sights of the resort.



Dining Hall at Idlewild.

MOUNTAIN VIEW FARM.

A most delightful resort near Ligonier, and one at which a host of summer visitors enjoy life, is the Mountain View Farm of W. H. Lowry. This country resort is finely located in one of the romantic sections of the valley and within sight of the town, and here at the Mountain View Farm are to be found many attractions for the visitor.

Mellon's Springs, two miles from town, is also an interesting locality much frequented by visitors. At this place is found a mineral spring possessing rare medicinal virtues, and here has been erected a handsome rustic lodge. All through the valley are fine roads and everywhere are to be seen ideal farms. Among the many may be mentioned the excellent stock farm of Geo. M. Earnest, Esq., of Keffer. With Mr. Earnest, stock raising is a science, and the fine stock from this farm are shipped to nearly every state.

WHERE THE TROUT LURK.

Aside from the Loyallianna, where the angler may enjoy excellent bass fishing, there are in the valley and in the bordering mountains many streams famous for their trout. Away to the North is Tubmill Run where a well-known Pittsburg resort is located. Nearer to Ligonier is Mill Creek, and here in the neighborhood of Kissell's Springs trout are plentiful. At Laughlinstown is an excellent trout stream, and a mile or so beyond is McGinniss Run, and it, and its twin sister, Linn's Run, are probably the best trout streams in the Valley. At Mechanicsburg, on Linn's Run, is found the excellent resort of Mr. Byers, where many city people spend the summer in the country and which is a haven for trout fishers. This fine mountain resort of Mr. Byers is located at the very foot of Laurel Hill, and nearby is some of the finest scenery to be found in the valley. The Flat Rocks on Linn's Run, the Falls of Linn's Run and Adam's Falls nearby are visited by many persons every year, and these places afford interest to the pleasure seeker and inspiration to the artist.

At Weaver's Mill, on Powdermill Run, is to be found some excellent trout fishing, and here the sportsman will

find an excellent stopping place. Mr. Weaver is a noted trout fisherman, and has a wide fame as such. A few miles beyond, at the village of Franklin, we cross the dividing ridge and enter the Valley of Indian Creek, and here can be enjoyed excellent sport. On down the stream at Jones' Mills are found other mountain trout streams, and across the mountain at Bakersville and Trent is a veritable sportsman's paradise.

All through these mountains, and all along these mountains streams are to be found delightful scenery. While other mountain sections can boast of loftier heights than the beautiful and undulating ranges which hem in Ligonier Valley and form for it such a beautiful beveled framework, few parts of the Alleghanies have grouped in them such happy combinations as have the Laurel Hill and Chestnut Ridge Ranges.




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This Hotel is located on the North West Corner of Diamond Park Square, two squares from the R. R. Depot, and is one of the best shaded hotels in Western Pennsylvania. Wide shaded porches and a beautiful lawn makes this Hotel a pleasant home for city people. Under its present management no better accommodations can be found. The rates are moderate.

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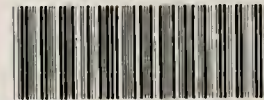
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